GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Use of Oxytocin
Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that milk dairies are reportedly using Oxytocin, a banned drug to increase milk production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the artificial use of oxytocin has adversely affected progeny of cattle, including cows and buffaloes and resulted in dwindling of livestock and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective action taken by the Government against those indulging in unethical practice in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has desired the Food Safety and Standard Authority to find ways to make use of Oxytocin as an offence under the relevant Statutes and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other corrective steps taken by the Government to address the problem?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2015

(a) There have been complaints that milk dairies are reportedly using Oxytocin to increase milk production.

(b) The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) has informed that there is no scientific evidence that artificial use of Oxytocin has adversely affected progeny of cattle and buffaloes resulting in dwindling of livestock. However, continuous Oxytocin use could lead to a progressive addiction and lack of response to normal let down of milk.

(c) and (e) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has issued advisories to all State Governments/ Union Territories to build close liaison with State Drug Controller to check the clandestine use of Oxytocin by the dairy owners. Further, all the State Animal Husbandry Departments have been requested to undertake extension services/activities for mass information, education and communication to educate farmers about the harmful effects of misuse of Oxytocin on milch animals.

The Drug Controller General of India has reportedly taken up the following measures under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act,1940 and Rules made thereunder to prevent misuse of Oxytocin by (a) Oxytocin formulation is permitted to be manufactured and sold in single unit blister pack only ; (b) Under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940), a notification has been issued vide GSR no. 29 (E) dated 17/01/2014, to regulate and restrict the manufacture, sale and distribution of Oxytocin in the country and to prevent its misuse, directing that the drug Oxytocin shall be manufactured for sale or for distribution or sold in the following manner: (i) The manufacturers of bulk Oxytocin drug shall supply the active pharmaceutical drug only to the manufacturers licensed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for manufacture of formulations of the said drug and (ii) The formulations meant for veterinary use shall be sold to the veterinary hospitals only. Central Drugs Standards Control Organization has carried out raids at various places where Oxytocin was being manufactured illegally and First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged.

(d) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, while this issue has been discussed in the Drugs Consultative Committee, no such action has been taken by the Government.